

has complimented the Government of Kerala. But there is a total participation of all sections of the people at the district, State and grassroot levels. All sections of society have taken part in it. I would like to know from the hon. Prime Minister whether the Government of India will also make this plan which has been now prepared by the Kerala Government to be a model to the other States. I would also like to know whether the schemes and the projects that we have prepared now at the grassroot level will be supported and helped by the Government of India or not.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Sir, I appreciate the efforts that the Kerala Government is making and I want to compliment them. I think that is the experience in the planning processes that some States are more dynamic than the others. That is why, we find some sort of a development vacuum that is growing that more dynamic States are able to utilise the funds more effectively or even to involve the people more courageously thereby - I think it is not only Kerala but some other States are also doing that - achieving good results. I appreciate it and there is a need to... (Interruptions)

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Prime Minister should address the Chair.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Question No. 302, Shri Rameshwar Patidar.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : For this Question, we have taken about 27 minutes.

[Translation]

Do you want to ask some other Question or not?

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED : Sir, in his reply, there is a sense of achievement... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Question is important and everyone wants to ask. Therefore, have a Half-an-Hour discussion on it.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have moved on the next Question. Shri Rameshwar Patidar please.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

[Translation]

Only one Question has consumed half-an-hour's time.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, Question Hour should be defined as an hour where only one question will take one hour.

[Translation]

SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK : Is Half-an-hour discussion held or not... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That discussion takes place.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I take one Member from each section.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I also ask the people. Everybody cannot be called.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There are still some parties which could not ask any Question.

[English]

Satellite Communication

*302. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation has carried out several Pilot programmes to demonstrate the use of satellite communications for education and training;

(b) if so, the details of the programmes launched so far; and

(c) the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) ISRO in co-operation with many other educational and developmental agencies has organised a Training and Development Communication Channel using one transponder on the INSAT System. A number of demonstrations were organised to familiarise the users with the network.

Some of the important users of the network have been as follows :

- Gujarat Government: Panchayati Raj, Development of Women and Child in Rural Areas (DWCRA), Khet Talawadi, Watershed Development, Jalsewa.
- M.P. Government : Panchayati Raj (Women), Health and Family Welfare, Auxilliary Midwife's (AM's) and Watershed Development.
- Karnataka Government : Panchayati Raj (Women), Health and Family Welfare (AM's) and Watershed Development.
- National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT): Primary teachers training (School Orientation of Primary Teachers (SOPT) in Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh.
- Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU): Orientation programmes for academic councillors, educational programmes for registered students in various disciplines like management, health and nutrition, distance education, etc.
- All India Management Association (AIMA): Management education programmes and update seminars for students and working managers.
- Institution of Electronics and Telecommunications Engineers (IETE): Distance education programmes in various technology and science subjects for award of professional degrees.
- Department of Women and Child Development: Training Programmes for Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) (Anganwadi) functionaries. Tele-conferencing between policy planners and field level implementing officials to discuss the frame-work strategies and difficulties of Indira Yojana (IMY) programmes.
- Self Employed Women Association (SEWA): Programme for women organisations.
- Safai Vidyalaya: Programmes for safai karmacharis of various municipalities of Gujarat.
- National Open School (NOS): Orientation programme for traditional teachers (tutors) to make them realise the change of their roles under the Open School system.

The channel has now reached an operational stage. Several users have found the network very useful for their training needs and have set up exclusive receiving networks. The potential of its application in very

important areas like primary school teachers training, panchayati raj training, training of health and ICDS anganwadi workers, training of trainers, etc. is great. Currently two uplinks are available, one at IGNOU and the second at ISRO, Ahmedabad.

To demonstrate the efficacy of a satellite based development communication and training network for rural development a Pilot Project viz. Jhabua Development Communications Project (JDPC) is also being carried out by ISRO in the Jhabua District of Madhya Pradesh. This 'end-to-end' Project would demonstrate the effectiveness of the communications support to the developmental activities in the district and also in providing interactive training to the field officials and the people in general. It will also provide inputs for planning and establishing of operational systems on a wider scale in the country.

The Project started regular transmissions on November 1, 1996. It has been realised at the project planning stage itself that a proper evaluation of the Project of this nature and magnitude can be obtained only over a period of time. The Project therefore, is planned for a duration of two years. Over the past nine months, the implementation of the project is being carried out as planned. Development programmes are being broadcast regularly in the evenings for reception in villages. Inter-active sessions for training rural development functionaries are being conducted on regular basis by the concerned district officials. Most of the teething problems have been sorted out and the network is getting stabilised. Preliminary evaluations indicate satisfactory working of the network. More detailed and periodic evaluations will be carried out over the course of the Project.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask the question from the hon. Prime Minister because my question pertains to chalking out programmes for the development of villages and farmers through Indian Space Research Organisations INSAT-Satellite and Satellite T.V. In those remote areas where T.V. has not reached programmes are telecast through Satellite T.V. in regional, particularly tribal languages for tribal people on their problems, like the development of agriculture, irrigation, family planning and health and even on day to day issues. I would like to thank the Government for selecting Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh for this purpose. Satellite T.V. in almost one hundred and fifty villages of Jhabua district is managed by ISRO Satellite Centre of Ahmedabad and ISRO itself produces its programme in studio. The programme is produced and telecast in tribal language. The programme of training Panchayats are also organised in one hundred and fifty villages which have undergone training programme in this regard. The interested persons are also imparted training. I would like to know the number of persons imparted training

through it? This scheme is going on since November 1, 1996. What are the details of its assessment during 9-10 months and the response of the tribals?

Secondly, whether the assistance of non-Governmental organisations are also likely to be taken for this scheme?

[English]

SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN : Sir, ISRO has carried out several pilot projects using the INSAT system for training, education and development communication. These are covered under two main programmes. One is the Training and Development Communication Channel (TDCC) and the other is the Jhabua Development Communication Project (JDCCP) which the hon. Member just now mentioned.

Jhabua district is one of the most backward districts in the country. Eighty-four per cent of the population are tribals and the literacy rate is low. It is only 14 per cent. The female literacy rate is just six per cent.

So, after evaluating everything, this project was started on 1st November, 1996. One hundred and fifty villages are covered through direct reception sets which receive television programmes from Ahmedabad. There are also talk-back facilities at each of the 12 block headquarters to enable an inter-active learning process. This project has been found to be very useful and for the past nine months it is progressing well.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : I would like to know as to how many people have been imparted training and what has been the assessment in this regard?

[English]

SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN : There is no figure as to how many people have been trained. We will assess after two years.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my question number is 302. It should not be treated as IPC 302. The Spirit of my question should not be nullified and the information should not be stifled. The ISRO had taken up this project with the help of Planning Commission and Doordarshan in 1975-76. It was launched in 240 villages across six States. The programme was launched simultaneously in six languages which was a record. Inspite of this being a good programme, it was abandoned and when Shrimati Indira Gandhi came to power in 1980 it was once again telecast on Television. I would like to know whether it would be abandoned again? It is a pilot project. Would it be taken up as a regular project?

Secondly, my district Khargone is in the neighbourhood of this district. It is an Adivasi district. Eight out of ten assembly segments are inhabited predominantly by Adivasis. Would this project be

implemented there? How much funds have been allocated for this project in the Five Year Plan?

[English]

SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN : Sir, Satellite Instructional Television Experiment (SITE) was conducted in 1975-76 using the application technology satellite, that is, ATS 6 satellite of U.S.A. S.I.T.E. and other projects of the 1970s are not included in the answer because we have taken programmes using INSAT so that it is totally an ISRO project.

The question pertains to programmes which have been launched, not a short-term experiment. Hence, T.D.C.C. and Jhabua are the two projects that we have launched.

[Translation]

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this project has immensely benefitted the people of the area particularly in the field of education and agriculture. This project was launched in Jhabua in November, 1996. I would like to know how much funds has been incurred on this project and whether the local people have been involved? Jhabua district has 85 per cent Adivasi population and there are many languages. Have the local actors particularly working in the field of education and agriculture been involved in the project so that confidence is created in the common masses of Adivasi society that they can do this work?

[English]

SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN : Sir, the total cost involved in the two years' pilot project is Rs. 7.5 crore. The local language, that is, Bhili, has been used.

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : That is correct, Sir, but what about the local actors for their cultural programmes, agricultural programmes and other social programmes? That is my point.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Sir, the point is that the programmes are made with local assistance. Primarily in such programmes, it is the folklore, the folk legends and the folk idioms that are used. Naturally, you cannot send artists and actors from Delhi for doing this because they would not know the folklore. So, I think if my hon. friend has watched the programmes, he would have seen that it is the local talent that is being involved more than anything else.

SHRI G.G. SWELL : Sir, the question relates to communications for education and training. We have, in this country, the programme of distance education through Indira Gandhi National Open University. I would like to know whether this Open University is making use of the satellite programmes and, if so, in what form and in what way. We only hear about these things but I have not seen any instance of what is being done.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Sir, the open universities are using the TV channels via satellite and they are using them in different dimensions. This particular programme

that my hon. friend has asked about, pertains to the blessed ISRO programmes. The ISRO programmes have been focussing on particular sectors of our community. But the other open universities are utilising it separately.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Through the Satellite Communication Channel, there has been progress in the field of rural development Panchayat Raj and training of women. We have only two uplink centres. One is IGNOU and the other is ISRO in Ahmedabad. Keeping in view the importance of media does the Government propose to set up more uplink centres particularly in remote areas in rural region so that women and Adivasis could be trained!

[English]

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Sir, the entire communications policy, and that includes the TV, is in review. You know that there is one Bill which is coming before the House, which is going to talk about the new system. Prasar Bharati has already come in. I, for one, am strongly of the view that all the Government channels should mostly be utilised for the upliftment of the society. The private channels are coming in and I think the other things of entertainment should mostly be left to them. But things of public interest like public education, backwardness, upliftment, etc. should be the primary concern of the official channels. I think as we come out with a new policy, this will be kept in mind.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Sir, this educational channel through satellite uplinking, will not be covered by the Prasar Bharati. That is my concern.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : It will not be. Sir, if I am not wrong, what I understood from the hon. Member was that he was emphasising the programmes directed towards a particular segment of society.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Yes.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : So, it can be both ways. Uplinking is a technical problem, with its merits and demerits. Programming software is the most important thing. Therefore, programming, I think, should be expanded because, after all, we have vast communities in this country which need this type of programmes.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Sir, in 1976, the Department of Space had also a pioneering project known as SITE Experiment, 1976, which was being received by direct receiving sets in the schools. It was abandoned after two years. The reply says that the Jhabua experiment is only for two-years. Then, are these educational and extension programmes for the Panchayati Raj and others going to be abandoned after two years?

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Sir, my hon. friend himself was incharge of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. So, naturally, he knows much better than I do. But, all the same, let me try to clarify, two things. The first experiment was made when I was Information and

Broadcasting Minister myself. We had taken a satellite on loan from Americans from one year. Till then satellites were not available to us on a national basis. Now they are available. Therefore, the main challenge before us is this. Why do we use satellites, and what type of programmes do we see? The experiments are being made primarily to collect data as to what type of programmes sell better, and what type of language and idiom should be used which are more persuasive. That is how the experimental projects are made. But I am certain that as we go into the next phase not only it should spread more but also we should learn from the data as to what type of orientation and what type of innovation is called for.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, in the reply it has been stated that the particular project, JDCP project, was started to demonstrate the effectiveness of the communications, support to the developmental activities in the district. It will take more than two years to gain the experience. But the Space Application Centre, long back had made a very important experiment known as KHEDA. That is a participatory form of communication and interactive media, and a lot of research has been made on this participatory form of media.

May I know from the hon. Minister, whether while this project is being studied, the lessons derived from the KHEDA experiment will be taken into consideration, particularly, with regard to the effectiveness of the participatory form of communication and interactive media?

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Yes Sir.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Sir, the Government has been providing education and information about women and child welfare programmes through Satellite Communications and ISRO and thereby creating awareness among the Adivasis and also providing training to them. I would like to know which areas in Rajasthan and which category of people would benefit from these programmes? The (b) part of the question is:

[English]

"syllabus based course for engineering students using distant tele-education techniques in collaboration with Institute of Electronics and Telecommunications Engineers".

[Translation]

So far, no programme has been started through the Satellite Communication System or ISRO in this regard? I would like to know when such a programme would start?

[English]

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Sir, if I have understood correctly, what my hon. friend is asking me - and correct

me if I am wrong - is that whether this programme will be extended further or not. Am I right? Did you ask this?

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : The pilot project has started. Besides smaller programmes related to women, child welfare, awareness among Adivasis, distance education have also started but our objective was to provide technical courses, engineering courses through the pilot project.

[English]

Syllabus-based courses for engineering students using distant tele-education techniques in collaboration with Institute of Electronics and Telecommunications Engineers-

[Translation]

Why has this programme not been stated? What are the reasons? Part (b) of the question is which are the areas being benefitted from this project?

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Sir, the point is that so far as other dimensions of knowledge are concerned, as has been spelt out in the reply, the main idea is not only ISRO but there are other channels which are also being used. This particular one is only meant for this type of thing. But we are having workshops just now on the expansion of this programme ISRO may not be able to take all the programmes. We have to involve other satellite organisations, the entire dimension, in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, into this. That is where new orientation as I said just now is being made and this data will be very useful to us for this.

SHRI K.S.R. MURTHY : Sir, in most of these programmes, the receiving sets in the villages do not function. To my knowledge, 90 per cent of them do not function with the result that the very purpose of the programme is defeated.

We all know that the family planning is a very important programme. Why is it that they have taken up a pilot programme in Madhya Pradesh? They do not concentrate on such programmes and instead diversify the funds to engineering colleges, medical colleges etc.

SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN : Sir, it is a continuous process. Actually, they are all utilising this uplink.

Contraceptive Vaccine

*303. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that an Indian scientist has developed the World's first contraceptive vaccine for women;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to check its efficiency and make use of it in the family planning sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) Yes, Sir. The contraceptive vaccine for women is being developed by a team of scientists at National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi.

(b) Phase-I and II human clinical trials with the vaccine have been completed. The vaccine has been found safe but the response to the vaccine amongst recipients is unpredictable and not sustained.

(c) Considerable research work is still required to establish its effectiveness in a genetically diverse population in a predictable manner for pregnancy protection before it can be considered for use in National Family Welfare Programme.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : The contraceptive vaccine for women was being developed by our research institutes. However, after the first and second human trials that had been conducted successfully, we found that the results were not stable. They did not sustain themselves and varied from person to person. The difficulty that we are facing about this is that it needs, at present stage, multiple shots which will not be feasible for us to execute. The research continues so that we can compress this programme into a one shot vaccination. But it will take some time before we can achieve the target.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : In part (b) of the reply, it has been mentioned that Phase-I and II human clinical trials have been completed. I would like to know how many such trials have been conducted and whether they are conducted on eligible persons or non-eligible persons.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : I am sure the hon. Member will appreciate that such experiments are conducted on voluntary couples.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : How many MPs are involved?

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : It was conducted on 100 women. Since the hon. Member has asked, I would also mention that no Member of Parliament is involved in this as yet. This was done on short-term safety parameters so that there were no after-effects. Phase-II was done at the same centres, AIIMS, New Delhi and Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Sir, Part (c) of the reply mentions that considerable research work is still required to be done. I would like to know whether it is being done at ICMR. Since this programme is first of its kind, I would also like to know whether the concurrence and approval of the World Health Organisation is required or not.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Initially, this was started in the ICMR and the funding was also done